225520-2002

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

OCT 1 2 2004

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: VRTY-001/00US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Facsimile Number 703-872-9306, at United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 12, 2004, Tuesday after Holiday.

Hanna Hacham

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: LATARCHE et al.

Application No.: 09/851,640

Examiner: THAI, Hanh B.

Confirmation No.: 3606

Art Unit: 2171

Filed: May 8, 2001

AMENDMENT

For: APPARA

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PARAMETRIC GROUP PROCESSING

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Applicants hereby respond to the Official Action dated July 9, 2004 as follows.

Amendments to the claims, if any, are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

OCT 1.2 2004

Attorney Docket No.: VRTY-001/00US

PATENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Facsimile Number 703-872-9306, at United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 12, 2004, Tuesday after Holiday.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: LATARCHE et al.

Application No.: 09/851,640

Examiner: THAI, Hanh B.

Confirmation No.: 3606

Art Unit: 2171

Filed: May 8, 2001

AMENDMENT

For:

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PARAMETRIC GROUP PROCESSING

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF RESPONSE

Enclosed is the following document in response to the Office Action mailed July 9, 2004 for the above-identified application:

Amendment/Response [X]

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted, COOLEY GODWARD LLP

Cooley Godward L

ATTN: Patent Group Five Palo Alto Square

3000 El Camino Real

Palo Alto, CA 94306-2155

Tel: (650) 843-5000 Fax: (650) 857-0663 By:

Reg. No. 48,861

KRB\hh